[3rd November 1931

Forest Panchayats

Cost of maintenance of class IV forests.

615 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total extent of the class IV minor forests, or local or ryots' forests, as they are called, in the Presidency and in the North Arcot district in particular; and

(*b*) what is the annual cost to Government of maintaining and controlling the above class of forests?

A.—(*a*) Local or ryots' forests are class III forests. The total extent of such forests is 2,179,169 acres for the whole Presidency and 176,942 acres in the North Arcot district.

(*b*) The cost during 1929–30 was Rs. 92,660.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Industries

Cashew-nut Industry in South Kanara.

* 616 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased—

(i) to give figures to show the development and present magnitude of the cashew-nut industry in South Kanara, the number of labourers to whom this industry gives occupation, the amount distributed to them as wages and the amount of foreign wealth drawn to India by the sale of cashew kernels; and to state—

(ii) (*a*) if the information is not at present available, will the Government be pleased to collect it and table it for the information of the Council;

(*b*) whether the Government have received representations to the effect that this industry is suffering a heavy handicap by reason of the imposition of import duty on cashew-nuts imported from Africa to be converted into kernels for export and that there is a risk of the transfer of the industry to Goa where no import duty is imposed;

(*c*) whether the Government are taking measures to remove this handicap; and

(*d*) if so, what measures are being taken?

A.—(i) The Indian Food Products Company of Mangalore supplied about 1,200,000 lb. of kernels of cashew-nut last year to the Franklin Banker Company of New York. It has been represented to Government that about four to five thousand labourers are engaged in this industry. The Government have no information regarding the amount distributed to them as wages or as regards the value of the cashew-nut exported from South Kanara.

(ii) (*a*) A report has been called for from the Director of Industries.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*) This Government have addressed the Government of India on the subject.